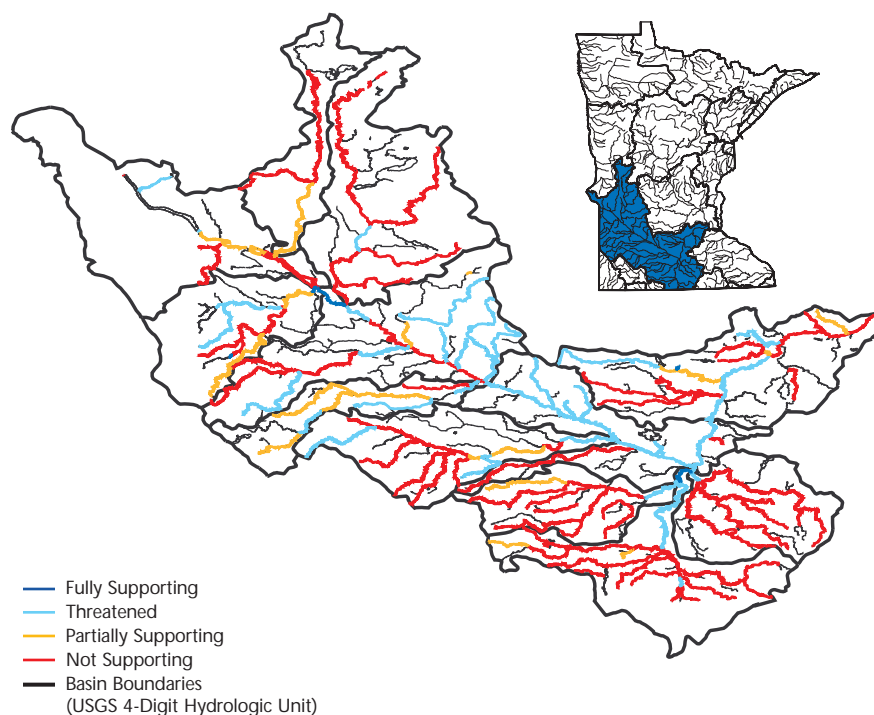


# Minnesota



This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the Minnesota 1996 305(b) report, contact:

**Elizabeth Brinsmade**  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Water Quality Division  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(612) 296-7312

## Surface Water Quality

As part of its basin management approach, Minnesota reported on three basins for the State's 1996 305(b) report — the Minnesota River, Red River, and Lake Superior basins. More than 48% of the surveyed river miles have good quality that fully supports aquatic life uses and 30% of the surveyed rivers fully support swimming. Over 68% of the surveyed lake acres fully support swimming. The most common pollutants identified in rivers were toxics, turbidity, nutrients, siltation,

and bacteria. Nonpoint sources generate most of the pollution in rivers. Minnesota's 272 miles of Lake Superior shoreline have fish consumption advisories. These advisories recommend some limits on fish meals consumed for certain species and size classes. Most of the pollution originated from point sources has been controlled, but runoff (especially in agricultural regions) still degrades water quality.

## Ground Water Quality

The State maintains a Ground Water Monitoring and Assessment Program to evaluate the quality of ground waters that supply domestic water to 70% of Minnesota's population. For the 1996 305(b) report, the State provided maps of potential ground water contamination sources in the three basins analyzed during the reporting cycle.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

During the 1994 reporting cycle, Minnesota revised its Non-point Source (NPS) Management Program with new strategies for addressing agricultural sources, forestry, urban runoff, contaminated sediments, feedlots, mining, and septic systems. The State also revised strategies for monitoring and assessing NPS impacts, educating the public, implementing BMPs, and applying the watershed protection approach to NPS management.

Minnesota adopted narrative water quality standards for wetlands

in 1994. These rules identify wetlands as “waters of the State,” establish nondegradation standards, designate wetlands use classes, and adopt narrative language designed to protect aquatic life. The State has also developed recommended hydroperiod standards.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality



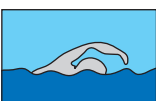


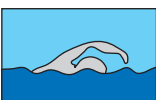


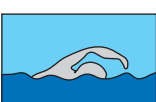
Minnesota maintains an Ambient Stream Monitoring Program with 82 sampling stations. Because of the rotating basin approach, approximately 40 sites are visited each year. The State also performs fish tissue sampling, sediment monitoring, intensive surveys, biological surveys, and lake assessments and supports a citizen lake monitoring program. In 1994, the State completed the Minnesota River Assessment Project, a comprehensive study involving over 30 Federal, State, and local agencies. The project incorporated intensive biological monitoring and habitat assessments with traditional chemical monitoring to identify multiple sources and their impacts. A pilot use support methodology was used for rivers in the Minnesota River basin that reflected this comprehensive monitoring.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

<sup>a</sup> A subset of Minnesota's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

## Individual Use Support in Minnesota

Designated Use <sup>a</sup>	Percent					
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)	
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 91,944) <sup>b</sup>						
	Total Miles Surveyed					
	7,793	10	39	12	39	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4,264	30	0	18	51	<1
Lakes (Total Acres = 3,290,101)						
	Total Acres Surveyed					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,128,269	61	7	22	9	0
Great Lakes (Total Miles = 272)						
	Total Miles Surveyed					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.